

# SUPPORT COLLEGE LOAN INTEREST RATE CUTS AND MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher and as a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I am concerned by the fact that as the need for post-high school education increases in our country, so has the high price of attending college. Tuition fees at public universities have increased 41 percent after inflation since the year 2000.

A recent report highlighted my home State of New Jersey as having the highest college costs in the Nation for 4-year public institutions. Including tuition and room and board, it costs an average of \$17,515 to attend a public 4-year university or college in New Jersey, about \$5,600 over the national average. Because of these skyrocketing costs, many students and their families must take out student loans.

Unfortunately, thanks to the policies of the Bush administration in the past and of a Republican-controlled Congress, interest rates have increased as funding to college programs have been cut. Now this Congress has a chance to pursue a positive course by broadening college opportunities for all American students.

A Democratic bill coming before the House today, as part of the 100-hour agenda, will cut interest rates for the student loans, and, so, therefore, I ask, Mr. Speaker, that as our economy becomes more important day by day, it is important that we have a workforce that will be able to appreciate lower costs. This legislation will give more college-bound teens the ability to afford college, and that is why it should receive strong bipartisan support.

# THE BRING THE TROOPS HOME AND IRAQ SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION ACT

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the President said that critics of escalation have a responsibility, quite frankly, to offer an alternative. Today, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and myself will do just that. The Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act is a rational alternative to escalation. It will repeal the authorization to use force, fully fund a 6-month withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq, provide economic aid to the Iraqi Government and fully fund the VA health care system for all veterans.

It will also prohibit permanent military bases in Iraq and U.S. control over Iraq's oil resources, and it will create a joint bipartisan committee to investigate how our Nation came to be misled into this unnecessary war and ensure that it never happens again.

It is time to bring this war and occupation to an end. It is time for military measures to be replaced by diplomacy. It is time to take the targets off our troops' backs and bring them home now. I am proud to say that today we will be introducing legislation to do just that.

I want to thank Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, Congresswoman MAXINE WALTERS of the Progressive Caucus and the Out of Iraq Caucus for their leadership.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

## CONGRATULATING THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY LAKERS FOR WINNING THE 2006 NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 62) congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2006 NCAA Division II Football National Championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 62

Whereas on December 16, 2006, the Grand Valley State University Lakers of Allendale, Michigan, won the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Football National Championship by defeating the Northwest Missouri State University Bearcats by a score of 17 to 14, defeating the Bearcats for the second consecutive year in the championship game;

Whereas in the championship game, quarterback Cullen Finnerty completed 15 of 33 passes for 225 yards and rushed for 115 yards on 22 carries for 340 yards of total offense, becoming the first quarterback in the history of the NCAA Division II Football National Championship to pass for more than 200 yards and rush for more than 100 yards, and Bill Brechin made 4 pivotal plays, including 2 first-quarter interceptions that kept the Lakers in the game;

Whereas the Lakers completed the season with a perfect 15-0 winning record, becoming just the second team in NCAA Division II football history to finish the season 15-0;

Whereas the Lakers have won 28 consecutive games, the longest football winning streak in any NCAA division;

Whereas the Lakers also won the NCAA Division II Football National Championship in 2002, 2003, and 2005;

Whereas the American Football Coaches Association named Coach Chuck Martin the NCAA Division II Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year;

Whereas Martin has compiled a 3-year head coaching record of 38-3, including a 10-1 postseason record;

Whereas the Lakers' seniors finish their 4 seasons with a 52-4 record, which makes

them the all-time most winning senior class in all of NCAA history;

Whereas 5 Lakers earned Associated Press Little All-American honors, with seniors Finnerty, Eric Fowler, and Mike McFadden earning first-team honors and juniors Brandon Barnes and Brandon Carr earning third-team honors;

Whereas the Lakers dominated the 2006 Daktronics, Inc. Division II All-American Football team by placing 6 players (Fowler, Barnes, McFadden, Finnerty, Carr, and Anthony Adams) on the first team;

Whereas in the 2006 season, Finnerty was selected to 3 All-American teams (the American Football Coaches Association, Daktronics, and the Associated Press) and finished second in the Harlon Hill race, an award given to the top player in Division II football;

Whereas Finnerty closes a college football career with a 51-4 record as a starter, including a record of 14-1 in postseason play, to become the most winning quarterback in NCAA history;

Whereas Finnerty was named the 2006 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Football Player of the Year, Barnes was named Offensive Lineman of the Year, and McFadden was named the Defensive Lineman of the Year for the second consecutive year;

Whereas McFadden also won the Gene Upshaw Award for the second consecutive year; and

Whereas Grand Valley State University's student athletes have displayed great strength, ability, and perseverance this season and have again made the citizens of the State of Michigan proud: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2006 NCAA Division II Football National Championship; and

(2) recognizes all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in this achievement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 62.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) for introducing this resolution that salutes Grand Valley State for their recent victory over the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats in the NCAA Division II national football championship in December.

Grand Valley State was led by quarterback Cullen Finnerty, who completed 15 of 33 passes for 225 yards and rushed for 115 yards on 22 carries for 340 yards of total offense, becoming the first quarterback in the history of the NCAA Division II national football